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World Factbook Travel Facts



WORLD
FACTBOOK

Afghanistan

US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens **DO NOT TRAVEL** to this country due to COVID-19, crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, and armed conflict. U.S. Citizens wishing to depart Afghanistan should leave as soon as possible on available commercial flights. Consult its website via the link below for updates to travel advisories and statements on safety, security, local laws and special circumstances in this country.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 2 blank pages in their passport for any entry stamp and or visa that will be required. A visa is required. US citizens will need to get in touch with the country's embassy or nearest consulate to obtain a visa prior to visiting the country.

US Embassy/ Consulate

[00 93] 0700 108 001; US Embassy Kabul, Kabul, Afghanistan

Telephone Code

93

Local Emergency Phone

Local numbers only

Vaccinations

An International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is required for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travelers having transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Polio vaccination up to 1 year before travel. See WHO recommendations.

<http://www.who.int>

Climate

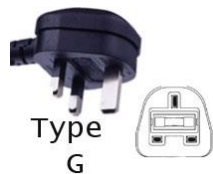
Arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers

Currency (Code)

Afghanis (AFN)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 50 Hz / plug type(s): G



Major Languages

Afghan Persian or Dari 77%, Pashto 48%, Uzbek 11%, English 6%, Turkmen 3%, Urdu 3% Pahayi 1%, Nuvestami 1%, Arabic 1%, Balochi 1%; note: shares sum to more than 100% because there is much bilingualism in the country and because respondents were allowed to select more than one language

Religions	Muslim 99.7% (Sunni 84.7 - 89.7%, Shia 10 - 15%), other 0.3%
Time Difference	UTC+4.5 (9.5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Potable Water	Opt for bottled water.
International Driving Permit	Suggested
Road Driving Side	Right
Tourist destinations	Blue Mosque of Mazar-e Sharif; mausoleum of King Amanullah Khan in Jalalabad; Green Mosque of Balkh; Friday Mosque of Herat; Band-e-Amir National Park; archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley (includes Shahr-i-zohok (Red City); minaret & archaeological remains of Jam
Major Sports	Buzkashi (form of polo using a goat carcass), soccer, rugby
Cultural Practices	In Afghanistan, you may see people place their hands over their hearts and nod slightly as a greeting.
Tipping Guidelines	Tipping is uncommon except at the fanciest of restaurants. Donations to free historical sites are appreciated, as is extra money for local guides, usually around 20 afghanis. It is very common for a taxi driver or sales persons to tell you it is nothing when you want to pay. This reticence is just a form of politeness. Insist on paying.

Please visit the following links to find further information about your desired destination.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) - To learn what vaccines and health precautions to take while visiting your destination. http://www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

[US State Dept Travel Information - Overall information about foreign travel for US citizens. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html)

[To obtain an international driving permit \(IDP\). Only two organizations in the US issue IDPs: American Automobile Association \(AAA\) \(www.aaa.com\) and American Automobile Touring Alliance \(AATA\) \(www.aataidp.com\)](http://www.aaa.com)

How to get help in an emergency? Contact the nearest US embassy or consulate, or call one of these numbers:
from the US or Canada - 1-888-407-4747 or from Overseas - +1 202-501-4444

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